

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/832,180

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cont.
wherein the contact prevention member is attached to the interior surface of the ink pack and is disposed at a location that is separated from an outer edge of the ink pack corresponding to the geometric shape.

Sub B)
8. (Once amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, comprising:
an ink pack which is filled with ink and is formed into a flattened bag shape from flexible material; and
a case housing the ink pack and constituting an outer shell of the cartridge;
wherein the ink cartridge is loaded to the recording apparatus so that surfaces of the flattened ink pack are oriented in a substantially vertical state, and
wherein an ink flow passage bulging outwardly of the ink pack is formed from at least one of interior surfaces of the flexible material constituting the ink pack to extend along a gravity direction lower side of the ink pack.

A/
9. (Once amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, comprising:
an ink pack which is filled with ink and is formed into a flattened bag shape from flexible material; and
a case housing the ink pack and constituting an outer shell of the cartridge;
wherein the ink cartridge is loaded to the recording apparatus so that surfaces of the flattened ink pack are oriented in a substantially vertical state,
wherein an ink flow passage bulging outwardly of the ink pack is formed on at least one of interior surfaces of flexible material constituting the ink pack to extend along a gravity

AS
Sub B
cont

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direction lower side of the ink pack, and

wherein the ink flow passage is formed by press-forming flexible material constituting the ink pack.

12. (Once amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, comprising:
an ink pack which is filled with ink and is formed into a flattened bag shape from flexible material; and

a case housing the ink pack and constituting an outer shell of the cartridge;
wherein the ink cartridge is loaded to the recording apparatus so that surfaces of the flattened ink pack are oriented in a substantially horizontal state, and

wherein ink flow passages bulging outwardly of the ink pack are formed from at least one of interior surfaces of the flexible material constituting the ink pack to extend along respective sides of the ink pack perpendicular to a side in which an ink outlet port is formed.

13. (Once amended) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, comprising:
an ink pack which is filled with ink and is formed into a flattened bag shape from flexible material; and

a case housing the ink pack and constituting an outer shell of the cartridge;
wherein the ink cartridge is loaded to the recording apparatus so that surfaces of the flattened ink pack are oriented in a substantially horizontal state,

wherein ink flow passages bulging outwardly of the ink pack are formed on at least one of interior surfaces of flexible material constituting the ink pack to extend along respective sides

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AS cont. Sub B'1) of the ink pack perpendicular to a side in which an ink outlet port is formed, and wherein the ink flow passages are formed by press-forming flexible material constituting the ink pack.

Sub B'2) 16. (Once amended) A flexible ink pack having opposing interior surfaces defining a substantially rectangular ink storage chamber, the flexible ink pack comprising:

a plug member provided to a shorter side of the substantially rectangular ink storage chamber; and

a protrusion and/or recess provided to at least one of the interior surfaces of the ink pack, and elongated substantially along a longer side of the substantially rectangular ink storage chamber,

wherein the protrusion and/or recess is attached to the interior surface of the substantially rectangular ink storage chamber pack at a location that is separated from an outer rectilinear edge of the substantially rectangular ink storage chamber.

Sub B'3) 18. (Once amended) A flexible ink pack having opposing interior surfaces defining a substantially rectangular ink storage chamber, the flexible ink pack comprising:

a plug member provided to a shorter side of the substantially rectangular ink storage chamber; and

a protrusion and/or recess provided to at least one of the interior surfaces of the ink pack, and elongated substantially along a longer side of the substantially rectangular ink storage chamber,

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wherein the recess is formed as a consequence of plastically deforming a part of a flexible film defining the one interior surface.

Please add the following new claims:

25. (New) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ink flow passage is integral with and defined by the at least one of the interior surfaces of the flexible material.

26. (New) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 12, wherein the ink flow passages are integral with and defined by the at least one of the interior surfaces of the flexible material.

27. (New) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 1, wherein the contact prevention member is entirely located within an inner space of the ink pack.

28. (New) The ink cartridge as claimed in claim 27, wherein the contact prevention member is discrete from and does not form a portion of an outer surface of the ink pack.

29. (New) An ink cartridge for use with a recording apparatus, comprising:
an ink pack which is filled with ink and is formed into a flattened bag shape from flexible material;
a case housing the ink pack and constituting an outer shell of the cartridge; and
a contact prevention member which is provided within the ink pack for preventing close contact between interior surfaces of the ink pack, caused due to a reduction of ink in the ink